

# WILL MAKE CRUISERS

St. Louis and St. Paul Can Carry Guns.

## BUILT WITH THAT VIEW

With Six-Inch Rifles on Their Decks They Would Make Good Fighting Machines and Play Havoc With Merchantmen.

For the last few days there have been several rumors regarding the American line steamer *St. Louis*, which is being overhauled at the shipyard here. It was reported that the vessel would be armed and made ready for service before she left this port for New York, so that the ship might be used in the event of war with Spain. It was stated that the ship had been ordered and were on route to Newport News. The rumor was groundless. Then it was said the magnificent ship had been ordered to proceed to the Brooklyn navy yard as she was to be put in shipshape and there receive her complement of rifles. Like the former report, this one was without foundation.

The latest rumor became current last night. It was stated that a naval officer in the city and inspected the *St. Louis* to ascertain whether in case of emergency, the vessel could be armed and put into commission. This was only a rumor. The ship was not in need of any such examination, and it was not necessary for the government officials to have plans of the *St. Louis* to know that she was so constructed that in case of emergency she could be placed on her deck. The *St. Paul* is also an auxiliary ship, and will carry at least six 6-inch rifles. The *St. Paul* is a sister ship of the *St. Louis*, with a gross tonnage of 5,893. They are 535 feet long, 63 feet wide and 26 feet deep. Each ship has a nominal horsepower of 2,000. Old mariners here say she surely should have with the merchantment a hostile nation.

La Grande Duchesse, the coastwise steamer built by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company for the Plant Line, is also registered as an auxiliary cruiser. La Grande Duchesse could carry at least four 6-inch rifles. Two 6-inch rifles could be placed on her deck. The *St. Paul* is also an auxiliary ship, and will carry at least six 6-inch rifles. The *St. Paul* is a sister ship of the *St. Louis*, with a gross tonnage of 5,893. They are 535 feet long, 63 feet wide and 26 feet deep. Each ship has a nominal horsepower of 2,000. Old mariners here say she surely should have with the merchantment a hostile nation.

# DERRICK MAY BE LOST.

Monster Wrecking Machine Chief in a Gale Off Hatteras.

The tug *Underwriter*, of Boston, having in tow the monster derrick, Chief, bound to Havana to work on the Maine, is believed to be lost. It was reported that the vessel was wrecked off the coast of Virginia, and the derrick was lost. It is certain both encountered the terrible storm off Hatteras.

The tug *Underwriter* was sent out from Norfolk last night, and the derrick was towed to the coast. The tug was reported to be lost, and the derrick was lost. It is certain both encountered the terrible storm off Hatteras.

# COMMITTEE MEETS

Business Men Will Go to Washington This Week.

## MUST BE ON THE ALERT.

Mr. R. G. Bickford Returns With a Favorable Report Regarding the Movement to Consolidate the Ports, But Urges Watchfulness.

Mr. R. G. Bickford, chairman of the committee appointed by the Business Men's Association to visit Washington and report on the proposed consolidation of the ports of Newport News, Norfolk and Portsmouth, returned yesterday with a favorable report. He stated that the committee had been well received in Washington, and that the movement to consolidate the ports was being actively considered. However, he urged watchfulness, as the movement was not yet settled.

Mr. Bickford made the trip for the purpose of taking in the situation. He spent two days in Washington, and during that time he met with the representatives of the various interests in the ports. He was well received, and his report was favorable. He stated that the movement to consolidate the ports was being actively considered, and that the committee had been well received in Washington.

# SHIPS MAY BE BOUGHT

Navy Department Said to Be Negotiating.

## MANY VESSELS OFFERED

English Engineer Claims to Have Sold Submarine Mines to Spain. Cruiser and Torpedo Boat Arrives at Havana.

WASHINGTON, March 5.—There is promise of a new and unexpected development in the Maine affair. It is reported that the Navy Department is negotiating with the Spanish Government for the purchase of a number of vessels. The Spanish Government is offering for sale a number of vessels, including a cruiser and a torpedo boat. The Navy Department is said to be negotiating with the Spanish Government for the purchase of these vessels.

English Engineer Claims to Have Sold Submarine Mines to Spain. Cruiser and Torpedo Boat Arrives at Havana.

# KISSED; THEN KILLED

Convict Commits Murder in Sing Sing.

## NO QUARREL OCCURRED

Adrian Braun Assesses His Wife, Who Had Begotten Him for His Treatment and Who Was Trying Him a Visit in Prison.

NEW YORK, March 5.—Adrian Braun, a convict in Sing Sing prison, murdered his wife, who was visiting him at the prison, last night. The murder was committed in a fit of passion, and no quarrel occurred between the couple. Braun was sentenced to a term of years for a previous crime, and his wife was visiting him in prison.

# STEAMER CHARLOTTE COMING.

She Will Arrive This Evening For Annual Overhauling.

The steamer *Charlotte*, which plies between Norfolk and Baltimore, will arrive here this evening for annual overhauling. She is expected to be in the harbor by 6 o'clock.

# TRICYCLE RACES.

Gardner, Fortifies the Mile Professional at St. Augustine.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 5.—In the bicycle races at St. Augustine today the summaries were as follows: Mile professional—Gardner won, but was disqualified for an illegal start. The race was given to Brown, and the race was given to Brown.

# DEATHS.

Funeral of Mrs. Marietta Parker Yesterday Afternoon.

All that was mortal of Mrs. Marietta Parker was lowered into the earth yesterday afternoon. The funeral was held at the residence of the deceased, and was attended by a large number of friends.

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